NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Norwich.—On 29th ult. the chancel of the church of St. Peters Mancroft, in the city of Norwich, was re-opened for divine service. The whole chancel has undergone a new arrangement: the level of the floor altered: encaustic tiles introduced: the columns, which are particularly lofty and well-proportioned, restored: and richly carved benches put in the place of the old square pews. It is intended to arrange the whole nave and aisles in a similar way, as soon as the funds required can be obtained.

Stanford (*Norfolk*).—The old church here has been enlarged, and was re-opened on 19th ult. The north aisle has been rebuilt in the meantime, and, together with the nave, reseated. The aisle is covered in, as before, with a lean-to roof, and is lighted by five windows in the decorated style, by Mr. Adams, of Norwich. The seats, and the other works rebuilding inclusive, were done by Mr. C. Ayton, of Attleborough.

Tunbridge.—A waterworks company has been organised here, under the management of Mr. Purbrick, C.E. Ground for ponds and reservoir has been purchased, and a reservoir, to contain 120,000 gallons of water, or, at a trifling further outlay, 360,000 gallons, is to be formed. The estimates by Mr. Purbrick amount to 2,350*l.* The shares have been all taken, and the works will be completed in three months, unless the strike of the engineering masters prevents it.

Reading.—Some improvements and additions are being made at the Assize-hall, Reading, including a new room and new entrance, renovation of the council chamber, &c.

Wolverhampton.—The architect's report on the old collegiate, or parish church of St. Peter, according to a local paper, has been completed. The foundations of this very prominent church will require to be shored and drained throughout, the roofs of the nave and south transept and aisle to be renewed, and the other roofs repaired before any other restorations can be commenced. The present chancel will be removed, and a new one built in accordance with the rest of the church. The walls, buttresses, and battlements must be to a great extent rebuilt, and the whole interior rearranged. The restoration will occupy many years. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are to contribute 3,000*l.* if the inhabitants provide an equal sum, to form the nucleus of the restoration fund.

Bolton.—The town council have confirmed the proceedings of the market committee, under which the tender of Mr. William Tompkinson, for the erection of the new market-house, has been accepted; as also that of Mr. John Evans, for the erection of Knowsley-street bridge, arches, &c. Both tenders were based on schedules of prices. One of the council stated, according to the *Bolton Journal*, that he had heard the erection of the market-house had been let for 18,560*l.*; the bridge and approaches for 9,000*l.* to 10,000*l.*; and that the land, he believed, would cost 20,000*l.* In all, he estimated the cost of the new market, compensation, &c. inclusive, at 70,000*l.* to 80,000*l.* Other members of council conceived this to be a grossly exaggerated estimate; the lowest named, however, being in all admittedly about 50,000*l.* The mayor stated that, as to the market contract, the amount depended on the manner in which the undertaking was carried out, and on the list of prices, no specific sum having been agreed on. It was objected that Mr. Evans had charged 8d. per yard for excavation, whereas the objector (Mr. Haslam) could have done it for 7d.; but it was explained that the amount of depth in relation to surface was unfavourable. Mr. Haslam also asked on whose plans the market-house was to be erected, as the architect's plans were erroneous, two of the sheets disagreeing. Mr. Robinson's original estimate for both market-house and bridge was only 13,000*l.* and for the shops in Knowsley-street and Fish-market, 5,000*l.* The area of the market-house, it was stated, would be 7,188 yards. The mayor said that Mr. Robinson's plans were being adopted, with alterations. Mr. Haslam was about to move an amendment, when he was told he was too late, and the committee's proceedings were confirmed, with two dissentients.

Stainland, Halifax.—New school-rooms are now being erected at Holywell Green, Stainland, near Halifax, at the expense of Mr. John Crossley, ex-mayor of Halifax. They are situated on an elevated site on the turnpike road, at the entrance to the village, and are intended for numerous children from the surrounding mills. The principal room is 48 feet by 30 feet, connected with which are two class-rooms, 17 feet 6 inches × 14 feet 6 inches, and an infant-school 30 feet × 30 feet. Galleries are provided both for the large school-room and for the infants'. In the rear of the building are entrance-porches for the children, with suitable accommodation for washing hands, &c. The style of the building is domestic Tudor, and the front elevation is divided by an ornamental bell-turret, with a clock, protected by a projecting barge-board with carved wooden brackets. Two porches with a high terrace-wall and decorated iron railings, and flights of steps, serve to give effect to the design; the steps being required by the difference of levels of the site and the public pathway, and which will be used only by visitors, masters, and others. The whole is to be warmed by hot water. The material used is a Yorkshire stone, from the Radcliffe Delft quarry. Mr. Joseph James is the architect; and the cost will amount to about 900*l.*

Swansea.—Some proposals have just been agreed to between the Duke of Beaufort and the corporation of Swansea, so says the *Cardiff Guardian*, as to the docks of this place, namely, that if the corporation would agree to a boundary extending from outside the lookout-house, in a straight line to the old gate-house on the sands, giving his Grace the land seaward of this line, he would abandon the claim which he was advised he had to several portions of land north of the proposed line. On this proposition being agreed to, the dock company, of which the Marquis of Worcester is the chairman, agreed to release the corporation from the subscription of 20,000*l.* towards the undertaking, as well as from the guarantee to the amount of 50,000*l.* under the Act of Parliament. On this offer being unanimously accepted by the corporation, it was announced that the Marquis of Worcester would visit Swansea, for the purpose of putting the first spade in the ground, in the course of a few weeks.

Holyhead.—About 5,500,000 tons of material out of the 6,000,000 required to form the breakwater have been deposited. Some of the stones submerged weigh upwards of 20 tons. They are extracted, as we have before noted, from a mountain of schist about half a mile from Holyhead, and are run down by railways to the sea. Charges of 50,000 lbs. of gunpowder are fired by galvanic batteries in the dislodgment of the quartz.

Chester.—The Earl of Shrewsbury, it is reported, has offered to give 10,000*l.* towards building and endowing a Roman Catholic Cathedral at Chester.

Stockton-on-Tees.—The imports of timber in 1851 at this port, according to the *Gateshead Observer*, were 15,172 loads in fifty-nine vessels, or about 2,860 loads, and eleven vessels more than in 1850.

Over-Darwen.—We are informed by Mr. H. P. Horner that the chapel stated in our last week's number, under head of Preston, as having been undermined by coal-workings, is St. James's Chapel, Over-Darwen, near Blackburn, not Preston, as stated.

Sunderland.—From a report by Mr. Meik to the River Wear Commission it appears that an extension of the piers seaward has been recommended, at an estimated cost of about 30,000*l.* for the north pier and 20,000*l.* for the south. The recommendation has been rejected, however, in the meantime, on account of the expense. A breakwater at the west side of the dock entrance has been ordered, with experiments to ascertain the cause of the silting up of the harbour.

Edinburgh.—The tower of Greenside Church has just been completed. It rises 100 feet above the threshold of the church.

Elgin.—Street and shop building seems to be in active progress here, some of it on plans furnished by Messrs. Reid, architects.

Forres.—One of the town council, Mr. Manford, has prepared plans and specifications for the erection of new markets at Forres. A joint-stock company is to be formed to carry them out.

St. Heliers.—A new cemetery, according to the *Jersey Times*, is to be formed at not less than a mile from the town.

POLYCHROMY.

THE subject of Polychromy, lately debated at the Institute of British Architects, implicates a vastly more important principle than mere archæological curiosity, for I am afraid that if it could be once proved that the Greeks pursued this system, so weighty in their authority in these matters, many of us would be led into a practice derogatory, I think, to the grandeur of our art, repugnant to a refined taste, and calculated in its results to draw us on to a puerile barbarism, destroying that which is incontestably *the* great principle of our art, viz., Form,—by setting up as a rival to it, what good sense and taste tell us is and must be merely an ornamental accessory, namely, colour; and we may be sure that if the Greeks really did pursue this system their knowledge of the true principles of art was infinitely inferior to our own, and their station, as models of perfection, would be justly forfeited. I will enter into no long statement of reasons which lead us to this conclusion, as far as architecture is concerned; but will refer immediately to that important adjunct of it—Sculpture. Let us refer to what one of the most judicious reasoners on art the world has produced, Sir J. Reynolds, considers the true aim and meaning of art, and of sculpture especially. "Imitation," he says, "is the means, and not the aim, of art. Sculpture is an art of much more simplicity and uniformity than painting: the object of its pursuits may be comprised in two words—form and character; and if, by a false imitation of nature, or mean ambition of producing a picturesque effect or illusion of any kind, all the grandeur of idea which this art endeavours to excite be degraded or destroyed, we may boldly oppose ourselves to any such innovation. If the producing of a *deception* be the summit of this art, let us at once give to statues the addition of colour. If the business of sculpture were to administer pleasure to ignorance, or a mere entertainment to the senses, the Venus de Medici might certainly receive much improvement by colour; but the character of sculpture makes it her duty to afford delight of a different and of perhaps a higher kind." Over and over again he denounces the attempt at deception as but the lowest province, and not even the legitimate one of art; and observes, as a fundamental ground common to them all, that they address themselves only to two faculties of the mind,—"its imagination and its sensibility." All educated minds will, I think, concur with him: it is for the vulgar to be struck with barbaric pearl and gold, to stand open-mouthed over minutely painted drapery, and the painfully life-like imitations of clever wax-work. It would seem indeed hardly necessary to treat this subject seriously; but that in an assembly practically connected with all the arts such a system has been approved of and advocated. As to the result of such a practice we may learn what it would be from what it has been. At the close of the 16th century there existed in Spain a school of painted sculpture of a most remarkable excellence, in which the works of Hernandez and Juan de Juni are pre-eminent; but as time flew on, and as genius died without successors, the real art of that school departed. Form, the most difficult and highest branch of all art, was soon neglected and quickly lost, and finally Colour became the artist's sole study, and the school was drowned in a deluge of yellows, reds, and blues: a similar fate would probably follow the introduction of such a system among ourselves, for from a vicious

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